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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

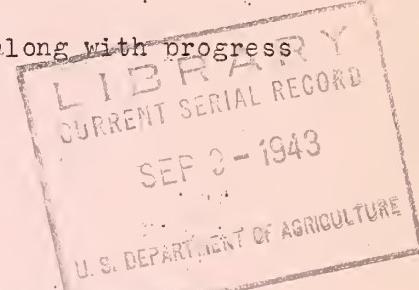
SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Reports on farm labor again headline the week's summary, along with progress in food production and conservation.

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KENTUCKY
August 15, 1943



Farm labor. - Many Kentucky farmers are working 16 hours a day and on Sundays to get full return from crops. Farm women make regular hands and use all sorts of implements. They fork hay, shock grain, and set tobacco, in addition to gardening and raising poultry. Some women do custom tractor work,

Large percentage of workers recruited by Extension have been 16- and 17-year-old boys. Twenty-three boys went from Letcher County to Henderson County to work through summer and fall. In Campbell County, 1,072 Victory Farm Volunteers have been employed.

German prison labor has been used on farms in areas adjacent to camps. One county reports 230 men worked on 13 farms in July. Another used 10 to 40 men a day; and still another county, prisoners did 1,620 man days of work. Prisoners work under guard in multiples of 10; rate of pay, 40 cents an hour when transportation is furnished by farmer, or 50 cents when furnished by Army. Work done included baling hay, hoeing and thinning hemp, hoeing corn, detasseling hybrid corn, and harvesting fruit. Farmers are well pleased with work done.

With large percentage of farm women doing some agricultural work on their own farms, enrollment in WLA is expected to be high. Plans are under way to have neighborhood committees report to community chairmen number of women eligible to qualify for certificate of service.

Many counties report their labor problems are at least partly solved by farmers' doing "turn about" on big jobs. In Russell County, 7 families worked out such a system. Visiting neighboring farms, county labor committee found 19 girls and women and 4 boys willing to swap equal hours of work and pay same wage for overtime. Agreement includes haying, harvesting of grain and tobacco, and handling of other crops. In Livingston County farmers formed hay-baling crews.

4-H conferences.—Canning, drying, and storing of foods were discussed at 11 wartime conferences of club members during July and August. Special feature was actual construction of barrel, mound, and cellar storage. Other subjects were chicken raising and saving of garden seeds.

At wartime conference held in Christian County for Negro 4-H Club boys, fall gardens, storage of vegetables, conservation of wildlife, health, and first aid were emphasized. About 100 boys from 11 counties attended.

Field demonstration.—Field demonstrations have important part in Kentucky's extension program. In McCracken County, J. H. Bradford's investment of less than \$20 made approximately \$526 in less than 3 years. In fall of 1940, he bought 2 tons of lime, 500 pounds of phosphate, seed for cover crop and strawberry plants to set an acre, all of which cost him \$19.60. Half an acre was left untreated as a check. In 1942 he harvested 289 crates of berries for approximately \$347 from treated land, and half-acre check plot yielded at rate of 108 crates that brought \$129. That fall, 600 pounds of superphosphate was put on half the treated acre, and 900 pounds of rock phosphate on the other half. Little difference was noted from two kinds of phosphate used. But from treated land, 105 crates of berries were picked, and untreated yielded at rate of 40 crates an acre. Mr. Bradford stated that use of phosphate and humus on 1 acre netted him at least \$526 more than if land had not been treated.

Farmers' market.—Farmers' wholesale market established in Rowan County. Unsold produce will be processed at community canning centers for school lunches, or for individual purchasers. Market, open 1 day a week, is supported by local business firms.

Food supply.—Home demonstration agents and home economics specialists report unusual amount of home canning and drying. Food specialists caution canners against filling jars too full, turning screw bands too tight, and canning in oven. Considerable interest in dehydration indicated by requests for special leaflet, Home Drying of Fruits and Vegetables.

In July, 30 carloads of potatoes were shipped from Whitley County. Situated in Cumberland Mountains, this county is generally regarded as deficit area in foodstuffs.

Eight buying centers were set up in Rockcastle County by a Cincinnati firm to purchase 400 tons of wild blackberries.

Carson Back, president of his 4-H Club in Letcher County, grew and sold 40,000 sweetpotato plants before entering Army.

MONTANA

August 28, 1943

Farm labor.—Approximately 250 Oklahomans, recruited and brought into State by War Food Administration, have been placed in counties, largely for grain harvest, and generally are giving satisfactory service.

Campaigns carried out during August to recruit and direct custom combines. Two district offices set up in State, one to handle incoming crews in south central section and other in eastern part for those coming in from Dakotas. Effort has been successful; enough combines now in State to handle crop.

Preliminary work done in anticipation of harvesting increased acreage of beans and potatoes. Latter will conflict with sugar beet harvest. Though much of potato picking can be handled by boys and girls, as was done last year, considerable manpower will be needed for moving sacks and doing other heavy jobs. Dry bean crop is very perishable, since rain or wind after it is cut may scatter much of it and cause losses. Present indications are that with proper mobilization sufficient labor will be available to handle bean crop.

Extension agents were called on during August to handle considerable quantity of grasshopper bait in a few sections. Their efforts helped to save alfalfa seed and flax crops. Danger is not yet past, particularly for flax.

NORTH DAKOTA
August 25, 1943

Farm labor.—Major wartime effort in past month has been conduct of emergency farm labor program. Through intensive organization for distribution of labor and use of machines, and with cooperation of extension services in Southern and Central States, North Dakota now is in fairly satisfactory condition for harvest and threshing labor.

Recruitment and transportation of approximately 4,000 farmers from Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma accomplished. These workers were placed by North Dakota Extension Service on farms where labor shortage was critical. Program exceedingly satisfactory and an important factor in improving farm labor situation. Workers will remain in State until about September 15.

Approximately 5,600 troops assigned to North Dakota harvest and threshing were distributed in critical labor shortage areas by Extension. This phase of program has worked out well, and in most cases work of troops has been of great value in saving crops. Working relationships with officers have been excellent and, in general, use of troops has been greatly appreciated by farmers.

About 2,000 workers were recruited from Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. These men came in small groups and aided materially in labor situation.

Special effort to bring combine harvester machines into North Dakota from the South and from Canada has been successful. With harvest well along and threshing generally under way, about all the extra combines that can be handled are now working in State. To facilitate movement of combines, clearing stations were set up at main points of entry and machines directed to areas where needed. In these areas data on work to be done were maintained by county agents and combines sent to farms with minimum of waste in time and travel.

For both recruitment of labor and combine harvester machines, Extension Service sent representatives into areas concerned and was successful, with help of other State extension services, in getting required assistance.

Food conservation.-Victory Garden campaign merged into educational drive to conserve food products. Information on food preservation and storage methods distributed widely in recent weeks. Series of food conservation educational meetings, conducted in every county with cooperation of other State and Federal agencies, will be continued until gardens are completely harvested this fall.

Food production.-Special educational work and publicity carried on for prevention and control of livestock diseases and parasites; particular stress on swine and sheep sanitation.

Organization for grasshopper and insect control set up by Extension in number of counties. County agents organizing and directing effort to save Victory Gardens from grasshoppers.

Surveys and observations made on potato blight and cereal disease, and recommendations and publicity released. Weed control demonstrated.

Feed production and storage emphasized throughout season. In recent weeks, planting of late crops and preservation of crops in silage form have been encouraged.

PUERTO RICO
August 1, 1943

Food production.-Campaign for increased food production continues. Agents teaching farmers control of livestock diseases and internal parasites, and swine vaccination against cholera. Written agreement signed for close co-operation with Department of Agriculture in Emergency Food Production Program. Total of 165 demonstrations in food production, 65 in food preparation, and 14 in food preservation started in July.

County agents completed coffee crop estimate. Consumption estimated at 180,000 hundredweight and next crop at 222,000 hundredweight.